

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 8, 10 and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indicated allowability of those claims. In order to expedite examination, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 12; therefore, claim 1 is now allowable. The Applicant has also amended claim 13 to include the subject matter of claim 12; whereas claim 13, as amended, includes limitations analogous to those of claim 1, as amended herein, it is allowable. The Applicant has further rewritten claims 8 and 10 in independent form, including the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims; therefore, claims 8 and 10 are now allowable. Finally, whereas claims 2-7, 9 and 11 are dependent from claim 1, and claim 14¹ is dependent from claim 13, and include the limitations of their respective base claims, they are also now allowable.

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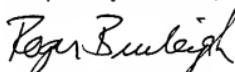
¹ Claim 14 was also amended to correct a typographical error; its dependency has been corrected to reflect that it is dependent from claim 13.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-11, 13 and 14.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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